

Duarte Seen Broadening Cabinet Choices

By Robert J. McCartney
 Washington Post Foreign Service

SAN SALVADOR, May 30—President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte plans to fill important Cabinet positions with ministers acceptable to the business community and armed forces in a bid for support from those powerful institutions, political sources said today.

Duarte, who is to be inaugurated Friday, is reaching outside his Christian Democratic Party in forming his new government to try to broaden its political base. While the Cabinet has yet to be announced, Christian Democratic sources said Duarte intended to tap two political independents and a member of a small, pro-business party for the Foreign Ministry and two key economics ministries.

Duarte was elected May 6, but final decisions about forming a government were put off until after he returned from a trip to Washington a week ago.

To give Duarte some breathing room during this period, the Reagan administration dispatched Ambassador at Large Vernon Walters on an unpublicized mission here to urge right-wing leader Roberto D'Aubuisson to curb his attacks on Duarte, reliable sources said.

D'Aubuisson, who was defeated by Duarte in the presidential election, had charged in the days after the vote that the results were fraudulent because of irregularities in the counting and because of covert CIA assistance to Duarte's campaign. Since meeting with Walters, however, the rightist leader has been quiet.

"Walters did his job well. D'Aubuisson has barely made a peep ever since," said one official familiar with the visit who insisted on remaining anonymous.

Walters, a retired general and former CIA official, flew to San Salvador May 18 and returned to Washington with Duarte the following day.

Two years ago he played a central role in fashioning the agreement in which D'Aubuisson was denied the position of provisional president although his party had won the most votes in an election for

a constituent assembly. D'Aubuisson instead accepted the post of president of the assembly after it was made clear to him that the U.S. Embassy and Salvadoran Army would not accept him as provisional president of El Salvador because of his extreme views and reported links to right-wing death squads.

Duarte's Cabinet choices were determined in part by the fact that his chances for success depend on whether his government can get along with businessmen, many of whom supported D'Aubuisson, and the armed forces, according to Salvadoran politicians.

Duarte plans to select relatively uncontroversial figures for the ministries of defense, foreign affairs, planning, economics and treasury, party sources said. He also is planning two partisan appointments: Christian Democratic Party Secretary General Julio Rey Prendes as minister of the presidency and of Vice President-elect Rodolfo Castillo Claramont as interior minister.

Duarte already has announced his intention to keep Gen. Carlos Vides Casanova as defense minister, thus avoiding any top-level shakeup in the armed forces. Duarte would have preferred to replace Vides Casanova with the more liberal Gen. Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, but it was clear that the Army would not tolerate such an appointment, Christian Democratic sources said.

Gutierrez was one of a group of officers who overthrew a conservative military government in 1979 and he served on a junta with Duarte from 1980 to 1983.

In one concession to Duarte, the Army agreed to allow nomination of Col. Reynaldo Lopez Nuila to the new post of vice minister for security affairs, the newspaper El Mundo reported this afternoon.

The armed forces also were expected to be satisfied with the planned choice of lawyer Jorge Eduardo Tenorio as foreign minister, the party sources said. Tenorio, an independent, has had good relations with the military, the sources said.

The business community was expected to be satisfied with Duarte's planned choices of moderates for three important economics ministries. They are:

- Fidel Chavez Mena as planning minister. Currently foreign minister, Chavez Mena is the most prominent Christian Democrat who is generally liked by the private sector.

- Ricardo Gonzalez Camacho as economics minister. A member of the small Democratic Action party, he currently is a deputy in the Legislative Assembly. The Christian Democrats decided to bring Democratic Action into the government as a gesture of good faith toward the private sector.

- Ricardo Lopez as treasury minister. Lopez, best known as president of the Salvadoran Red Cross, appeals to the private sector because he is a businessman and a political independent.

One field where Duarte's appointments may draw criticism is agriculture. The expected nomination of Carlos Aquilino, a Christian Democrat who currently is minister of education, as agriculture minister "could be controversial," one Christian Democrat said.

Even more likely to be controversial was the plan to name outspoken peasant union leader Jorge Camacho as assistant secretary of agriculture. Camacho's group provided organizational support to Duarte during the campaign.